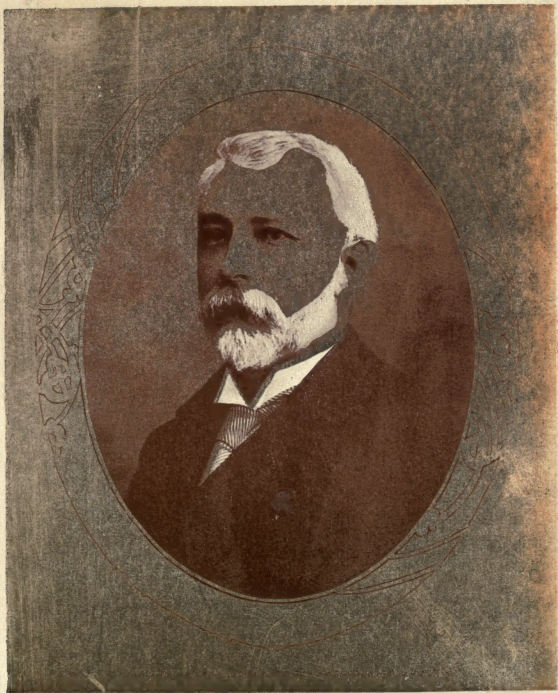


THE FIELDING
BANQUET









W. S. Fielding



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THE FIELDING BANQUET.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE DINNER GIVEN BY
THE LIBERALS OF NOVA SCOTIA,
TO HON. W. S. FIELDING,
MINISTER OF FINANCE
OF CANADA.

HALIFAX, N. S., DECEMBER 11TH, 1902.



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THE FIELDING BANQUET.



HE first visit of the Hon. W. S. Fielding to Nova Scotia after his return from England, where he had been one of the representatives of Canada at the Coronation of His Majesty King Edward VII., and at the Colonial Conference in London, was generally felt by the Liberal party in Nova Scotia to be a fitting occasion to give expression to their admiration of the ability, prudence and integrity which have characterized him as Minister of Finance and earned for him the respect and confidence of the people of the Dominion at large. It was felt that his return as one of Canada's representatives from participating with representatives from all parts of the Empire in an event of world-wide interest should not be allowed to

pass without some manifestation of the honour and esteem in which he is held, and the pride the Liberal party of Nova Scotia take in his career. A number of his friends, representing the sentiments of the party, took advantage of this visit to tender him a Banquet. The honourable gentleman having signified his willingness to accept the compliment, a committee, composed of Hon. George J. Troop, (Chairman), and Messrs. George E. Faulkner, Michael Carney, John Longard, George E. Boak, Arthur W. Redden, Charles S. Lane, George Taylor, William W. Walsh, Robert T. McIlreith, Frederick F. Mathers, William G. Robertson, G. Frederick Pearson, and Robert E. Finn, (Honorary Secretary), perfected the necessary arrangements, and the Banquet was held in the Queen Hotel, at Halifax, on the evening of Thursday, the 11th of December, 1902.

The demand for tickets was so great that all the seats were engaged a week in advance, and a waiting list had to be opened.

Nova Scotia's Premier, Honourable George H. Murray, presided, and at his side were

four Dominion Cabinet Ministers, who had come from Ottawa to join in the testimonial to their colleague, while around the banquet board were men of prominence in every department of life in Nova Scotia. Veterans, too, were there who had fought with Mr. Fielding in the stormy days preceding the defeat of the last Conservative administration in Nova Scotia, who had shared with him the triumphs of later days, and who now united with the rest of the Liberals of Nova Scotia in acclaiming a chieftain who already stood in the front rank of Canada's great men.

It was a splendid gathering, representative of the best citizenship of this Province by the Sea. Every county of the Province was represented. Cape Breton sent a large and enthusiastic delegation. Pictou and the Eastern Counties had a stalwart company there. Colchester and Cumberland were well in line. Hants was well represented. The Annapolis Valley had its full quota, while from Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens and Lunenburg came a happy lot, flushed with their recent victories,

and proud to do honor to one of Nova Scotia's ablest men.

The Committee, together with a number of other gentlemen belonging to the city, wishing to give their friends from the other parts of the Province every opportunity to be present, gave up their seats, and to the number of thirty-eight occupied a side room until the toast list was reached. It was a matter of public comment that never before in the history of such functions in this Province was the entire programme carried out without change, nor had the enthusiasm continued on undiminished till such a late hour. The last speaker began his remarks at 4.30 Friday morning, and was listened to attentively by at least two-thirds of those who had sat down at 8 o'clock the previous evening. Most elaborate were the preparations made, and most sumptuous was the repast given. The decorations of the dining room were a striking feature. The motto on the wall at the head of the room, and encircling the picture of the honored guest of the evening, Hon. W. S. Fielding, was "Worth makes the man." Other devices

were, "Laurier and a Progressive Policy," "Nova Scotia Liberals are proud of their Chief," "Long life to our King, and peace within his Kingdom." Portraits of the King, the late Queen, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. Alexander MacKenzie, Hon. Joseph Howe, Hon. Thomas Robertson, and Dr. Farrell adorned the walls, festooned with bunting, while gaily entwined on pillar and post, and added also to the mural decorations, were the flags of our realm and bunting of all descriptions. The tables were spread to perfect taste, and as the guests entered the hall the effect was most pleasing, the illuminated word "Welcome" meeting the eye at first glance.

On the right of the Chairman sat the guest of the evening, Honourable W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance; Honourable William Patterson, Minister of Customs; Honourable Raymond Prefontaine, Minister of Marine and Fisheries; Duncan C. Fraser, M. P.; Benjamin Russell, K. C., D. C. L., M. P.; F. B. Wade, K. C., M. P.; Alexander Johnstone, M. P.; Arthur Kendall, M. P.; Hon.

L. J. Tweedie, Premier of New Brunswick. At his left sat Sir Frederick Borden, K. C. M. G., Minister of Militia; Hon. A. G. Blair, Minister of Railways and Canals; Hon. Wm. Ross, P. C., M. P.; Colin F. McIsaac, M. P.; Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew T. Thompson, M. P., (Haldimand, Ont.,) Hance J. Logan, M. P.

The Vice-Chairmen were Honourable Lawrence G. Power, Speaker of the Senate; William Roche, M. P.; George Mitchell, M. P. P., and George E. Faulkner, Esquire.

The menu card was a very neat and artistic booklet, bound in leather and silk, with the Arms of the Province embossed on the cover. Each one contained an excellent half-tone portrait of Hon. Mr. Fielding, signed by him.

At about ten o'clock the Chairman proposed the toast to His Majesty, which was largely honoured—"God Save the King" was sung with much enthusiasm.

Mr. Robert E. Finn, the Honorary Secretary of the Banquet Committee, read the fol-

lowing letters and telegrams from those invited guests who were unable to attend :

Hot Springs, Va., 11th Dec., 1902.

To R. E. Finn, Halifax,—Very sorry that I cannot attend banquet which our Nova Scotia friends are tendering to my trusted colleague and friend Fielding. I however join you heart and soul to do him honor, and the fullest honor is not more than he deserves.

WILFRED LAURIER.

On the reading of the telegram from Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, there arose an outburst of cheers which continued for some minutes.

Hot Springs, Va., Dec. 5th, 1902.

I regret extremely that absence from Canada prevents my having the honor of accepting the kind invitation of the Liberals of Nova Scotia to the Banquet to be given on the 11th inst. to the Hon. W. S. Fielding. Throughout his many years of public service, first in his native Province and later in the arena of Dominion politics, Mr. Fielding's public career has been marked by a devotion to the best interests of the country that has won for him the admiration and respect of the Canadian people, and we Western Liberals are most grateful to Nova Scotia for having furnished to the Councils of the country a man of his sterling worth. It is therefore with special regret that I find myself unable to be present at the coming

banquet, and join with Mr. Fielding's many friends in Nova Scotia in doing honor to him.

Yours faithfully,

W. MULOCK.

Ottawa, Dec. 6th. 1902.

I am exceedingly sorry that circumstances will not permit my being present at the Complimentary Banquet which the Liberals of Nova Scotia will tender to the Hon. W. S. Fielding at Halifax on December 11th. Nothing would have pleased me more than testifying by my presence to the high esteem and consideration I have for that splendid representative of Nova Scotia in Sir Wilfred's Cabinet. I wish you all success,

CHARLES MARCIL.

Ottawa, Dec. 4th, 1902.

Mr. R. W. Scott regrets he will be unable to be present at the Banquet to be given by the Liberals of Nova Scotia to the Hon. W. S. Fielding, at Halifax, on 11th December.

Toronto, Dec. 1st, 1902.

My Dear Mr. Finn,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an invitation to a Complimentary Banquet to be given to the Hon. W. S. Feilding on the the 11th inst. I am very sorry that I cannot avail myself of this kind invitation to do honour to one of the greatest Canadians that ever held office under the Crown. His administration of provincial affairs for many years was a splendid preparation for the more onerous and difficult task of administering a department of the Dominion Gov-

ernment. In both cases, Mr. Fielding has shown that he is possessed of great ability as an administrator, and by discussions of public questions through Ontario, has impressed his own personality upon the people of this Province to the utmost satisfaction of his friends. I hope you may have a pleasant evening.

Yours truly,
GEORGE ROSS,

Quebec, 2nd Dec., 1902.

Dear Sir,—It is with a sentiment of pleasure and of regret that I am answering your kind invitation to attend the Complimentary Banquet to be given to the Honourable W. S. Fielding by the Liberals of Nova Scotia, on the 11th instant. Of pleasure because I feel much honoured at being offered the opportunity of expressing my admiration for the Minister of Finance, and of regret, unfortunately, at being deprived, (on account of pressing and previous engagements which shall prevent me from going to Halifax then,) of the pleasure of accepting your invitation.

It would have offered a real pleasure to me to join the Liberals of Nova Scotia on that occasion, when they intend honouring one of your Province's most illustrious sons, a man whose talents, ability, faithfulness, broad-mindedness and real statesmanship has brought to him the admiration of the whole Dominion, and of the Province of Quebec in particular, and contributed so much to promote the interests of Canada. It is a well-deserved honour you are rendering to the Honourable Mr. Fielding, and I only regret that my public duties will not

allow me to be present, but you may rest assured that a the Liberals of this province are in accord with you.

Please accept, with the renewed expression of my thanks, my best wishes for your success, and

Believe me, yours truly,

S. N. PARENT.

Ottawa, 3rd Dec., 1902.

My Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your kind invitation to attend a banquet to my friend and colleague, Mr. Fielding, at the Queen Hotel on Thursday, December 11th. Some two years ago I had the pleasure of attending the banquet which was given there to Sir Wilfrid Laurier shortly after the general election, and I retain a pleasurable recollection of my meeting with the Liberals of Nova Scotia at that time. The Liberal Party of Nova Scotia is to be congratulated upon the fact that it possesses a leader of such talents and high qualifications for important duties as Mr. Fielding, and his friends and colleagues are all pleased to know that his efforts are appreciated by the people of his own province. With best wishes for your success, and regretting that I shall not be able to be with you, I am

Yours faithfully,

CLIFFORD SIFTON.

Ottawa, Dec. 2nd, 1902.

My Dear Sir,—I am just in receipt of the kind invitation to attend a Complimentary Banquet to be given, on behalf of the Liberals of Nova Scotia, to the Honorable W. S. Fielding, on the 11th instant.

I fully realise that the function will be an important and enjoyable one, and would like to join our friends in

Halifax in doing honor to my esteemed colleague, but I find that other engagements at this time will render my attendance impossible. Regretting this, I am,

Yours very truly,

SYDNEY FISHER.

Port Hastings, N. S., 11th Dec., 1902.

To the President Fielding Banquet, Queen Hotel, Halifax,—Friends and myself snowbound, Inverness Railway, past two days. Regret unable to pay compliments to Nova Scotia's most gitted son to-night.

A. MCLENNAN.

1st Dec. 1902.

Dear Sir,—I regret that on account of press of business, I will be unable to accept your kind invitation to attend the Complimentary Banquet to Hon. Wm. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance, at Halifax, on Thursday evening, 11th December next. Wishing you success.

Yours truly,

H. G. CARROLL.

1st December, 1902.

Dear Sir,—I regret being unable to accept the kind invitation to attend the Complimentary banquet to Hon. Mr. Fielding, at Halifax, on the 11th December next, as I will be engaged in the Supreme Court at that time arguing a very important case for the Government.

Yours truly,

C. FITZPATRICK.

Ottawa, Dec. 3rd, 1902

Sir,—I am directed by the Right Honourable the Minister of Trade and Commerce, to acknowledge, with thanks, the kind invitation to a Complimentary Banquet to be given to Hon. W. S. Fielding at the Queen Hotel, Halifax, on December 11.

The Minister very much regrets that owing to a severe attack of rheumatism, from which he has been suffering for a long time, it is impossible to give himself the pleasure of being present on that occasion.

I have the honor to be, *Sir*, your obedient servant,

S. S. COX,
Acting Private Secretary.

Ottawa, December 6th, 1902.

Dear Sir,—I regret very much my inability to attend the Complimentary Banquet to be given on behalf of the Liberals of Nova Scotia to the Honourable W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance, at the Queen Hotel, Halifax, Friday evening, December 11th, at 8 o'clock.

Thanking you for your kind invitation,

Believe me, very truly yours,

M. E. BERNIER.

HON. MR. MURRAY,

in proposing the toast, "Our Guest," paid an eloquent tribute to Hon. Mr. Fielding's services to the Liberal party and to the country. He spoke as follows :

Mr. Vice-Chairmen and Gentlemen :—

I desire to congratulate the Liberals of Nova Scotia upon this gathering of representative Liberals. Your presence here is evidence of your high appreciation of the worth of our honored guest, the Minister of Finance, whose health I now rise to propose.

I can assure you, Mr Vice, that it is particularly pleasant to have with us on this occasion a number of Mr. Fielding's distinguished colleagues and many distinguished representatives of other parts of Canada. We recognize that they are here at considerable inconvenience. The Liberals of Nova Scotia thoroughly appreciate the good work done by our Liberal friends in other Provinces, and I feel sure that intermingling on such occasions as this tends to develop more kindly feelings

towards those who in every section of our country are fighting for the same principles. (Applause.)

I realize, however, that magnificent and representative as this gathering is, it is in one sense an inadequate representation of Nova Scotia Liberalism. It would require a very much larger space than is at our disposal to contain all the Liberals of this Province who would willingly be present to give evidence of their devotion and admiration for a gentleman who, signally and distinctly, has been the leader of the Liberals in Nova Scotia for a quarter of a century. (Applause.)

In looking around at the faces here to-night I recognize that our guest is not surrounded by personal and political friends who have become such by reason of recent successes, but, gathered here are many of the personal friends of his youth, and many who shared with him the trials and disappointments which have been incident to the Liberal party of this Province—they are, in fact, the personal and political friends of a life time.

It is perhaps one of the greatest tributes to a political leader that through a long period of public life he has been enabled to continue to enjoy the confidence of his first and oldest friends. In this respect, I think our guest presents an example unexcelled in the political history of Canada. (Applause.)

I realize on occasions of this kind it is naturally expected that many agreeable things should be said, but my obligations in this respect become very much lessened when I feel that this gathering must appreciate that good words can be said with a full measure of truth. To some of us here, in fact, I may say to the most of us, the record of Mr. Fielding is the history of the Liberal party in Nova Scotia. There are some around these tables to-night—and thank Heaven, they are still with us—who remember and participated in the grand old fights of the Liberal party many years ago before Mr. Fielding became a prominent figure in public life ; there are others who were prominent in the affairs of the party in his early political history who have passed away from this life, but who lived to see their

young nominee of 1882 occupy a position of prominence and great responsibility in the affairs of his native country. Their faces are missed here to-night but their memories will long live in the history of the Liberal party of this province. (Applause.)

Mr. Vice, I feel that I would be pardoned for giving voice to any expressions as to the personal worth of our guest. I would be a willing listener to a eulogy of our guest by another, but for myself, my personal relations with him for many years have been of such intimacy as would naturally restrain me from doing full justice to my own feelings on this occasion. But a moment ago I stated that to many of us his political record was the political record of the Liberal party of this Province, and a moment's thought will prove this statement.

In 1878, the Liberal party received a crushing defeat from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and in no part of Canada was this defeat more sudden and overwhelming than in the Province of Nova Scotia. This was not only true in respect of Federal affairs, but our

Provincial Liberal government was also hopelessly defeated and a Conservative administration was in charge of the Province, practically without opposition. It will be admitted by those around me, with a knowledge of the facts, that at that time the situation was thoroughly disheartening and the fight necessary to recover the position lost was plainly a long and arduous one. What was the first gleam of hope? For four years the editorial columns of the "*Morning Chronicle*" contained keen and practical criticisms of the legislation which was being enacted by the provincial government, and these editorials roused such an interest in public affairs in this province by reason of the facts placed so forcibly and fairly before the electors that at the first opportunity the Conservative administration was defeated, and a Liberal government was formed which, with few changes has controlled the destinies of the province from a provincial standpoint ever since. (Applause.)

I have no personal knowledge of the measure of credit due the Finance Minister for creating the influences which brought about

this result, but the Liberals of that day as well as the opponents of Liberalism bear testimony to the fact that the credit was mainly due to an aroused public interest through the instrumentality of the editorial columns of the leading Liberal newspaper.

But this was only the beginning. For a period of nearly twenty years our opponents held power at Ottawa, and the dominating influences in the Federal government were Nova Scotians who were determined to drive a provincial Liberal administration from power. At each recurring provincial election the whole force of this powerful Federal administration was directed against the provincial government and every effort was made to crush the Liberal party in this Province. The history of the struggles of 1886, 1890 and 1894 must still be fresh to many of you, and in all these great struggles in which our present guest was the commanding figure and leader, the Liberal party won triumphantly.

✓ I desire to say, and no man will admit this more freely than the Finance Minister himself, that in these struggles he was surrounded by

colleagues, by members of the Legislature and thousands of Liberals in every county, who, inspired by his example, his honesty of purpose and his courage, did valiant service. It is my own judgment, that it was the success of the Liberal party in provincial affairs in this Province that kept heart and pluck in the party and enabled it to maintain an efficient organization. The wise and useful legislation carried in our provincial legislature was conclusive evidence to our people that the same party could be safely trusted in the wider sphere of Federal affairs.

But the case of the Finance Minister should not be permitted to rest upon his mere ability to win victories. The history of the legislation in this province under the leadership of Mr. Fielding is one which no Liberal need apologize for. From 1882 to 1896 the statute books of this province are replete with legislation of a practical and progressive character all designed to place this province, in respect of her material affairs, in line with the most progressive legislation on the continent. Legislation of the greatest moment to

this province, financially and otherwise, was successfully carried through—legislation of such an important character that children still unborn will yet bear testimony to its wisdom. Much of this legislation was not carried through the legislature, nor did it receive its ratification at the hands of the people, without the most bitter and determined opposition. But happily for our guest the many matters of legislation which were the subject of criticism at the time are to-day but conspicuous tributes to his far-seeing statesmanship, and the voice of criticism has been forever silenced. (Applause.) This is not an occasion for detail, but it would be a great object lesson if for one hour we could revert to the depressing conditions of 1891 and then suddenly see the contrast of to-day. The thousands of happy homes, the smokestacks of industrial development in our mines and manufacturing villages, the transportation to foreign markets of steel and iron, the doubled provincial revenue, and the winning back of many of our native population, are facts which, when attributed to the direct legislation of a single man, carried

forward under the fiercest criticism by his party opponents, constitute a signal tribute which comes to few public men in Canada. (Applause.)

When I stated a moment ago that thousands of Nova Scotians would gladly pay tribute to our honored guest, perhaps some might think that I still regarded our Finance Minister as one who was devoting his entire energy and ability to the furthering of good government in this province. Happily for Nova Scotia it can be said that while there are still thousands in Nova Scotia, it can also be said that there are hundreds of thousands in Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, who have learned to appreciate him in his present position as fully as we appreciated him as Prime Minister of Nova Scotia. His career in the Federal Parliament has been of recent date. On the formation of Sir Wilfred Laurier's cabinet he was called upon to fill the position next in importance, in the affairs of this country, to that of the Premier himself. When you read the budget speeches delivered in the House of Commons from 1897

to the present time, when you have evidence of the prosperity prevailing in this country from the Pacific to the Atlantic, when you see our revenues growing and our trade expanding, when you know as a matter of fact that the extension and development of our country during the past few years has been simply phenomenal, and that our honored guest has borne his fair share in the government which has brought about this, it is little wonder that the admiration for him and his political genius is not confined to his native province. His record in Federal affairs has been more than satisfactory, and his friends, and even his opponents, readily bear testimony to his broad and honest devotion to the important affairs of state. (Applause.)

We still remember him as the representative of this metropolitan constituency and Prime Minister of Nova Scotia but Canada will remember him as the author of the preferential tariff, the Finance Minister of surpluses, high wages and general prosperity. (Applause.)

It is fitting that this demonstration should take place in the city of Halifax. It was here, in the home of his boyhood, that he started in the battle of life, without any of the influences which too frequently bring about success. He climbed the ladder of political fame rung by rung, each rung gained by his own unaided efforts, clean hands and gifted intellect. (Loud applause.)

Gentlemen, our guest.

HON. MR. FIELDING

responded as follows :

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chairmen and Gentlemen :—

I beg you to accept my most sincere and heartfelt thanks for the very great honor which has been done me by this large and most representative gathering of the Liberals of Nova Scotia. I am sure that no words that I can employ will adequately convey my appreciation of so much kindness, so much confidence, so much loyal support.

Every great privilege brings with it a corresponding degree of responsibility, and sometimes of disadvantage. By the favor of my good friends I occupy a position of considerable importance as a member of the Dominion Cabinet, a position of which any citizen of Canada may justly be proud. But there is a disadvantage which attaches to it. It is a far cry from Ottawa to Halifax, or to Shelburne and Queens. My time is necessarily so much occupied that I cannot visit my own province as often as I desire, and therefore I am obliged to throw myself upon the generous confidence of my constituents and the people generally. After a protracted absence from Nova Scotia it is most agreeable to me to find myself again in my native city under such very pleasant circumstances. I find myself in the presence of old colleagues in the Local Government and Legislature, with whom I worked hand in hand for so many years, and by whose aid and co-operation, more than by any effort of my own, was brought about the enactment of those important measures to which the chair-

man has so kindly referred. (Applause.) I find myself in close touch with that gallant band of Liberal members whom Nova Scotia sends to the House of Commons, of whom Sir Frederick Borden and myself, as ministers from this province, have so much reason to be proud. (Applause.) I see a delegation from the constituency of Shelburne and Queens, which has so generously honored me with its confidence as a representative in parliament. Here too are many old friends of the city and county of Halifax—my former constituency, to which I was indebted for my start in public life—alas! not all these, for there are many whom we miss now, such friends as he whose portrait adorns your wall, the late Dr. Farrell. (Applause.) I am surrounded by friends from all parts of Nova Scotia—literally from Cape Sable to Cape North—with whom I have been intimately associated for many years in all the good work of the Liberal party. Here also are several of my colleagues in the Cabinet and one of the Ontario Liberal whips (Colonel Thompson, M.P.), who have travelled long

and far to grace the meeting, and also my friend the Premier of the adjacent province (Hon. Mr. Tweedie) who has crossed the border to do honor to the occasion. Truly my lines have fallen in pleasant places to-night. (Applause.)

On such an occasion as this my mind naturally travels back to the time, more than twenty years ago, when I first became a candidate in this constituency. As you, Mr. Chairman, have said, that was in the dark days of the Liberal party. The party had been badly defeated in 1878, in both Local and Dominion spheres. In 1882 it seemed an almost hopeless task to organize a Liberal campaign. However, there were many ready hands and willing hearts, and Liberal tickets were put in the field in the various counties of the Province. When the elections were over, it was found that what was believed to have been a very strong government, under the leadership of a very eminent man (Sir John Thompson), was defeated. In this constituency we were not fortunate enough to carry our whole ticket. One of our candi-

dates failed to obtain the necessary majority, but two, my late lamented friend, the Hon. M. J. Power, and myself were duly elected. I well remember the night when such members-elect as were accessible met at the house of that grand old Liberal, Sir Robert Boak, (applause) to arrange for such action as was necessary to assert the control of Provincial affairs by the Liberal party. Soon after that the new Liberal Government was formed, under the leadership of my friend, Mr. Pipes, who I am glad to see is with us to-night. It was a somewhat raw and inexperienced body which, by the vote of the electors, was placed in charge of our public affairs. It would not have been strange if many thoughtful people doubted whether these men could successfully carry out the work which had been assigned to them. However, the work was undertaken in good spirit, with the result that from that day to this the Liberal party has had full control of the public affairs of the Province of Nova Scotia, (Applause) and I think I may reasonably add that there are no present indications that the people of

the Province have ever regretted the confidence thus bestowed upon the Liberal leaders, for at no time in the history of the country has that party been more strongly intrenched in the confidence of the electors. (Applause.) I am happy to know, Mr. Chairman, that you and your colleagues have, in some respects, easy times. I do not mean by that that you are free from the cares and burdens which always come to men engaged in public affairs. I have reference particularly to the question of Provincial finances. The Local Government are on Easy street now, (Applause and laughter) but it was not always so. In those early days to which I am referring the financial situation of the Province was by no means a happy one. There was a growing need for more ample revenue; there was a growing need for more liberal expenditure, but there was not a corresponding growth of Provincial income. You are happy to-day in the possession of a revenue of over a million dollars per annum. In those earlier days the revenues of the Province were just about one-half of that sum. In the year 1881 the revenue from

mines and minerals was only a trifle more than \$100,000. From the beginning we attached great importance to the mining interests, and had great confidence that they might be made a source not only of wealth to the Province generally, but of special wealth to the Provincial treasury. By an enlightened and progressive policy that source of revenue has been very greatly increased until, instead of having an income from mining royalties of about \$100,000 as in 1881, the Local Government will be unhappy if they do not receive this year from that source somewhere about half a million dollars. (Applause.) At one time great efforts were made by our opponents to persuade the public that we were running the country into debt to a dangerous extent. That cry is hardly raised any more in Nova Scotia. But I occasionally find reference to it in other Provinces. Sometimes my friends in the Conservative press, in their anxiety to make a point against the Minister of Finance, tell the public that when he was Premier of Nova Scotia he plunged the Province headlong into debt. (Laughter.) Well, sir, I

have to admit that in those days we did incur a modest public debt. I will even admit, for the sake of argument, that prior to that time there was no public debt. But it does not follow that our predecessors of either political party had been able to carry on the affairs of government with the ordinary revenues of the Province. There was a large amount of money to the credit of the Province at Ottawa. While that money remained, the interest formed a part of the Provincial revenue. When our predecessors—and I speak of both political parties—needed money for public services outside of the ordinary expenditures, they did not go into debt. They adopted the simpler process of drawing money out of the capital account at Ottawa. The Government which immediately preceded ours adopted that policy to some extent. Now, if we had been willing to follow the same course, we might have avoided a public debt for some years at least. There remained a considerable sum in this Ottawa fund. We could have drawn it out, as did our predecessors, and we could have gone before the public with the proud

boast that we had not gone into debt. But it would have cost the Province quite a lot of money to have enabled us to make that boast, Whatever may be said as to the wisdom of the action of our predecessors in withdrawing money from that fund, there cannot be a doubt that in our time, under the conditions with respect to interest which then prevailed, it would have been an act of folly to have drawn any more money from the Ottawa fund. So, from the moment the Liberal Government came into power in 1883 down to the present time, not a penny has been drawn from their capital account at Ottawa. (Applause.) To the extent of the amount in the fund—and it is upwards of a round million of dollars—it paid the province to go into debt, because the money then remaining in the fund at Ottawa earned five per cent. interest, while the Government could go outside and borrow money at much lower rates of interest. (Applause.) I would not lay down as a rule that it is always a wise policy to go into debt, but I think you will agree with me that in this case we have proved most conclusively that it was

a profitable transaction to go into debt, as we did, rather than to draw money from the capital account, as our predecessors did. (Applause.) Well, sir, the public debt which was incurred by the Province in my day, and the additions thereto which have been incurred under your own management, amount to a comparatively small sum, and the wise and progressive policy which the Liberal Government has followed in Provincial affairs has developed the resources of the Province and increased the Provincial revenue to a degree which compensates many times for the small burden of interest which you have to bear.

Time will not permit me to refer in detail to the various acts which the Liberal Government have placed upon the statute books of the Province. Some of the measures which were most vigorously assailed have splendidly vindicated themselves, and in the light of the events of the last few years it must be a matter of wonder to many that these excellent projects could have been so bitterly attacked. If the local treasury is agreeably full, if you are able to provide more liberally than ever before

for your great services, such as education, roads and bridges, steamboats, packets, and ferries, humane institutions, etc., if your finances generally are in a most healthy and satisfactory condition, if you are able to provide money liberally for your important railway enterprises, if your mineral resources are being developed as never before, and vast industrial establishments are growing up in your Province, giving life and strength and hope to all who are interested in its welfare, all these things are largely—nay, chiefly—due to the fact that for twenty years there has been in power at Halifax men of the Liberal party, who understood and appreciated the resources of the Province, and had the courage to so deal with them as to bring in the capital which was needed for their development. (Applause.)

But pleasant as it might be to me to linger among recollections of the fourteen years which I spent in the Local Legislature, working in co-operation with many of the friends whom I see around me, I must not forget that for some years I have been engaged in another

field of labor, and I shall be expected to say something of what has been going on in the sphere of Dominion politics. (Applause.)

For six years the Liberal party has had control of affairs at Ottawa. It is not too much to say that these six years have formed a period of happy peace, of great progress, of unexampled prosperity. (Applause.) If we at times have to make comparisons between the condition of Canada under a Liberal administration and the condition of the country in the period when our friends of the other side had control of affairs it is because their action on such questions has challenged such comparisons and made them necessary. One very good result of the change of administration has been that many of our Conservative friends have experienced a degree of piety which was not observed in their conduct a few years ago. (Laughter and applause.) When anybody talks of the prosperity of the country today our good Conservative friends are ready to declare that this is due to the blessings of Divine Providence. And so say we,

except that we have to remind the public that the day of miracles is long past and that Divine Providence works out its good purposes through human agencies. In the years from 1874 to 1878 there was a period of depression in Canada—not in Canada alone, but in other countries as well. Did our Conservative friends then say that this depression was due to causes beyond the control of statesmen? On the contrary, they maintained that the cause of that depression was the tariff policy of the MacKenzie Government. A change of Government occurred, times somewhat improved. Did our Conservative friends then say that the degree of prosperity which came to our country was due to Divine Providence? Oh, no. Then the story was that this prosperity was created by the adoption of what they were pleased to call their “National Policy.” When in 1896 the Liberal party was appealing to the country for support our Conservative friends pointed with great pride and satisfaction to the progress that had been made and warned the people not to give up these good times and put affairs in the hands

of the Grits who would certainly bring about a disastrous state of affairs.

Let us look at some of the striking features of these six years of good Liberal Government. In the first place, I would remind you that we have had six years of very prosperous finances. That is a very important matter. To the nation, as well as to the individual, it is important that business be transacted on a sound basis, so that credit may be properly maintained. Our friends on the other side did not fail to remind us of this in 1896. They very confidently predicted that under the Liberal management there would be an era of deficits and a loss of the public credit. Compare these predictions with the results now well known. In the last three years of the late Government there were deficits amounting to over five and one-half millions of dollars. Taking their last six years, and crediting them with their surpluses, the operations of the six years show a deficit of about two millions of dollars. Now turn to the six years of Liberal administration. In the first of those years, when we had only a partial control of affairs,

there was a small deficit, but from that time forward we have had a series of surpluses. (Applause.) If we take as before the whole period of six years we find that the Liberals, instead of having deficits of two millions, have had surplusses amounting to over twenty-seven millions of dollars. (Applause.) The six years period to which I refer closed on the 30th of June last. I am glad to be able to add that so far as we have gone in the current year the good record is kept up and there is every indication that at the close of this fiscal year we shall have one of the largest surpluses in the history of Canada.

Sometimes our opponents say it is strange that the government should claim to have surpluses when they still have to borrow money ; when they still have to make some additions to the public debt. But there is nothing strange in the matter to those who are acquainted with our public affairs. When we speak of a surplus we speak of the difference between the revenue and the ordinary expenses of the government. There are, of course, other expenses of a special kind which

form the capital account. There has always been such an account in our financial affairs, and there is likely to be such an account for some time to come. It was a perfectly legitimate and proper account in the time of our predecessors, and it is equally legitimate and proper in our time. If a man having a salary of \$1000 per annum lives in a rented house the rent from year to year is a charge upon his salary, a charge against income. But if, instead of paying rent, he buys the house for \$4000 or \$5000 he does not expect to pay for the house out of his salary for the year. He raises money on mortgage or otherwise. In other words, he opens a capital account for this special item, separate and apart from his ordinary annual expenditure. So it is in the case of the Government of Canada. The ordinary expenditure of the country must be met by the ordinary revenue. But if other expenditures of a special character are made, if railways are built or subsidized, if great public works are constructed, or if some special and exceptional charge of a temporary character arises, it is a charge on

capital account and it may have to be met by the borrowing of money, just as the man had to borrow money to pay for his house. This capital account is kept in substantially the same way now as it was in former years. If there are any new items in it it is because of special reasons, and there are no such items which would materially alter the facts I have given. The surpluses therefore are real.

Considering the very large expenditures which we have made on capital account, for services such as I have indicated, it would not have been remarkable if we had had to make large additions to the public debt. But on that point as upon others the Government have a record upon which they can safely appeal to the judgment of the people. (Applause.) The additions to the public debt in various forms during the eighteen years of the Conservative Government averaged about six and one-half million dollars per year. The additions to the public debt during the six years of the Liberal Government have averaged only about \$2,225,000 per year. (Applause.) We have spent no less than

\$54,000,000 on important services chargeable to capital. Yet notwithstanding these large expenditures we have made only the small addition to the public debt which I have just mentioned. Indeed there is no addition whatever to the burdens of the people in that respect. If we distribute the net debt of Canada over the population of the country we find this gratifying result, that whereas in 1898 the net debt of the country was \$50.96 per head of our population, in 1902 the debt was only \$49.98 per head, showing a reduction in the public debt under Liberal administration of about \$1 per head of the population of the Dominion. (Applause.)

The public credit, we were told, would suffer under Liberal administration. But the facts have been the very reverse. The Dominion loan which I placed in London several years ago was admittedly the best loan ever made by Canada. (Applause.) The general improvement of Canada's position in the eyes of the world has enabled us to obtain a concession in the money market which our predecessors vainly endeavored to secure.

Trustees and executors having large funds to invest were practically forbidden to purchase the securities of Canada. We have been able to put an end to that disadvantage, and now these trust funds may be freely invested in Canadian securities. As a result of all these things Canada's place in the money market has been well maintained at a time of much financial stringency, and Canadian securities are relatively in a better position to-day than at any other time. (Applause.)

Let us turn now from the question of Canadian finances to the general question of Canadian trade, and there also we find an exhibition which must be gratifying to every patriotic citizen. It will be remembered that in 1896 our friends of the Conservative party pointed with great pride to the better times that had prevailed under the national policy. They were able to show that in eighteen years of that policy the total trade of the country, imports and exports combined, had increased to the extent of \$66,000,000. That was the record of which they were so proud ; that was the happy condition which they begged you

to cling to. Now the Laurier Government has only been in power for six years, just one-third of the time of the late government. It would be a great thing, from a Conservative point of view, if we could show that in these six years there had been an increase proportionate to that under the national policy, that is to say, if we could show that the trade of Canada had increased to the extent of \$22,000,000. If we could make that proud boast we should then be on even terms with our Conservative friends. We could then say that the country had lost nothing in respect to its trade by the change, but that the increase was quite up to the Conservative mark. But what is the record of increase under Liberal administration? Canada's total trade has increased during those six years, not at the old national policy rate, not to the extent of \$22,000,000, but to the extent of over \$184,000,000. (Applause.) In the whole eighteen years of the national policy the increase amounted to \$66,000,000. In six years of Liberal policy the increase has amounted to \$184,000,000. In the good old Conservative

days our trade increased at the rate of \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000 per year. In these days of Liberal administration the trade of our country has increased at the rate of \$30,000,000 per annum. (Applause.) The increase of exports of Canadian products in eighteen years of Conservative rule was \$41,000,000. The increase in six years of Liberal rule amounts to \$86,000,000. (Applause.)

In a speech made shortly before the change of administration in 1896, one of the Conservative leaders quoted some statistics of that day as evidence of the prosperity of the country. Our distinguished leader, Sir Wilfred Laurier, (great applause) speaking on the same occasion, said jokingly that when the Liberals came into power he felt assured that the evidence of prosperity would be found not only in statistics but in the condition of every man's personal affairs. Sir Wilfred's happy prediction has been fully realized. (Applause.) The great prosperity of Canada is shown by statistics, a very few of which I have given you to-night, but it is also shown in a more forcible way by the conditions of business

which come under the eye of every careful observer. And that prosperity is well distributed throughout the whole Dominion. Sometimes it has happened that when business was tolerably good in the middle and western country, things would be dull down here by the sea. But it is not so to-day.

Great prosperity has indeed come to our western country. Look at the difference between the condition of Manitoba and the Northwest of to-day and the condition in 1896. Canada had spent large sums of money in one way or another in the opening up of that western country. What was the harvest to be? Down to 1896 the progress of that country was but moderate. To-day how different the situation. The stock of the C. P. R.—which in some degree measures the progress of the west—was worth 62 in 1896. Today it is sold in the market at 128. Lands were but little sought for in 1896; to-day there is a great demand for them and their value is every day increasing. Sales by the Government and by the C. P. R. show enormous increases. One gratifying feature

is that immigrants are coming in from the United States and bringing a large amount of capital to invest in Canada. (Applause.) I went down to Yarmouth the other day (Applause) followed by Mr. D. C. Fraser and Dr. Russell, (Applause) taking part in a little campaign, and there I found the Government arraigned by one of the Conservative speakers because we had not offered inducements to the young men of Nova Scotia to settle in the west rather than to bring in emigrants from abroad. I confess that I had to plead guilty to that charge. We have no desire to induce the young men to leave Nova Scotia and go to the great west. (Applause.) There is a percentage of them undoubtedly who will wander, and if they are to go abroad by all means, I would say, let them go out to our own west rather than go under a foreign flag. (Applause.) But there is something still better that I should like to see them do, and that is to remain in Nova Scotia and help to build up our own Province. (Applause.) There is no trouble about the building up of the great west. The resources of that country

are such as will undoubtedly attract a great population. We have our own Province to consider also and instead of urging our young men to go away from it, even to our own west, I would rather urge them to remain in Nova Scotia and see if they cannot find opportunity here for the profitable exercise of their intelligence, their skill and industry. (Applause.) The Maritime Provinces have in recent years enjoyed a very fair measure of that general prosperity of which I have spoken. Nova Scotia certainly has no reason to complain. In the eastern part of our Province have grown up those splendid industries, the fruit of Liberal policy, industries for the production of coal and for the manufacture of iron and steel. (Applause.) The effect of these things has been wide reaching throughout the Maritime Provinces. In the capital of the Province and in the western part also there has been a gratifying degree of activity. Manufacturers and merchants alike prospered. One commercial traveller, representing a Halifax house, made the statement recently that he alone had sold nearly \$100,000 worth

of goods in Cape Breton this year. (Applause.) Commercial travellers representing manufacturers are having a pretty easy time, for in most cases their firms are so full of orders that they do not need to seek business as they once had to do. Farmers, fishermen, miners, mechanics, lumbermen, manufacturers, merchants, bankers, all have been doing pretty well.

Is it not strange that at such a time as this, in the presence of such widespread prosperity, an agitation should have been started for a return to the old National Policy? (Applause.) I am far from claiming that our tariff is perfect. It is not necessary to discuss the question of free trade. There is no question of free trade in the situation. Let us not deceive ourselves. We have never had free trade in this Dominion, nor are we likely to have it in the time of any man in this room. We have always had a tariff, and have always attempted to adjust it to meet the interests of all classes. There has always been a measure of incidental protection in the tariff for revenue. If you impose a duty of fifteen per cent.—as in Nova Scotia before

Confederation—on a given article when imported, and a similar article is made in this country, the home made article is protected to that extent. The question now is between a moderate tariff and a tariff of excessively high duties, such as existed under the so-called National Policy. (Applause.)

Again I say that we do not claim that the tariff is perfect. It is more than five years since the tariff was prepared, and only a few changes have been made in the interim. We believe that, on the whole, it has proved a very good tariff. We have held that it is not wise to make frequent tariff changes. Every business man here appreciates the importance of tariff stability. (Applause) In such things it is sometimes better to bear the ills we have than fly to others that we know not of. It is better to bear the inconvenience of some inequalities than to disturb business by frequent changes. (Applause.) But changed conditions at home and abroad may necessitate looking over these items from time to time. I am not here to make any new announcement concerning the tariff. In the last Budget speech is the authorized statement of

the Government's disposition, and what I say now is just the same. We do not tie ourselves to every item of the tariff. If there is an inequality which needs to be remedied, we are prepared to look into it, and at a proper time make amendment. (Applause.) If anything has happened which warrants a change in any particular, we are not to shut our eyes to it. I have said elsewhere—I repeat here—that the tariff in Canada must be largely a matter of compromise between the views of extremists. In a country so vast as ours, there must be a great diversity of interests, and sometimes they will become conflicting interests. It is the part of statesmanship to carefully study these interests, and endeavor to reach a reasonable compromise between them, calling on each one to concede something, in order that a common ground may be reached and a policy adopted which the country as a whole can accept. (Applause.)

Our tariff so far as a tariff can affect business, has brought prosperity to the country and confusion to the opposition. (Applause.) Whatever may be thought of our tariff, one thing will be admitted, the tariff is there, item by item, in

plain English and all who run may read it. But who on this wide earth can tell what the tariff policy of the opposition means? One of the delusions of our Conservative friends is that they have a tariff policy. (Laughter.) No Kaleidoscope ever made presents a greater variety of pictures than the utterances of prominent Conservatives on the tariff question since the adoption of the present tariff by the Liberals. Think for a moment of some of the many positions these gentlemen have taken on the question. When the tariff was brought down to Parliament the opposition leader of the time pronounced it a ruinous one, and spoke of the sorrowful wail of business men over it. (Laughter.) A little later when they found that instead of being ruined the country began to prosper greatly, the opposition took the opposite tack and argued that there had been no material change—that we still had the old National Policy. (Laughter.) I have heard opposition financial critics argue in the House that the reduction of duties was so infinitesimal that vulgar fractions could hardly be found small enough to define it. (Applause.) Well, if one cared to

dwell on that phase of the question, it would be easy to show that during the past five years the duties imposed by the present tariff have amounted to at least fifteen million dollars less than would have been imposed if the former tariff had remained in force. That means fifteen million dollars left in the pockets of the people which under the old policy would have been taken out of them. (Applause.) Having to admit that the country was prospering our Conservative friends raised the cry that the Liberals had stolen the Tory clothes—that is, had continued the National Policy. (Laughter.) Then when imports from Great Britain increased we were told that the increase was not at all due to the British preference, but that the increase would have been all the same if there had been no tariff change. (Laughter.) Soon after this our Conservative critics got around to the other side of the circle, and were found declaring that the granting of the British preference was destroying Canadian industries. (Laughter.)

My respected friend, the leader of the Opposition, has deceived himself into the

impression that the Conservatives have a policy on this subject, which he tells us is the old reliable Conservative policy, and he describes it as "adequate protection." (Laughter.) A great statesman has said that England is largely governed by phrases. Perhaps the Opposition leader imagines that Canada can be governed by an empty phrase, which may be made to mean anything or nothing, according to the taste and the fancy of the particular speaker who uses it. But I think our opposition friends will discover that the Canadian elector is too old a bird to be caught with chaff. He will not be content to accept phrases without explanations. The opposition leader has already had some experience of that. Only once I believe—only on one item—has he attempted to explain what "adequate protection" means. When he used the phrase at a meeting in the west he was asked to illustrate by stating what he thought was adequate protection on agricultural implements. His answer was that he thought the present tariff was adequate. (Laughter.) Well that is a gratifying compliment to the tariff. Probably if opposition speakers were asked on

other items of importance they would have equal difficulty in discovering what amendment the tariff requires. The manner in which this question of agricultural implements has been dealt with is a very fair illustration of the *hocus pocus* policy of our opposition friends. Several sessions ago I heard the chief whip of the opposition in parliament condemn the Government for not making duties high enough to shut out foreign agricultural implements. Almost with tears in his eyes he spoke of the large quantity of American machines which he had seen at a railway station. Thus from the mouth of an authority in the party it appeared that adequate protection meant a higher duty than now exists on these articles—high enough to shut out imports. But a little later the general elections came on and Mr. Hugh John Macdonald, the son of the late chieftain, was the deputy leader authorized to explain the Conservative policy in the western part of the country. He also grappled with the question of agricultural implements, and assured the people that the Conservative policy meant the placing of these implements on the free list. (Laughter.)

Now, two years later, we have the opposition leader facing the same question, and coming to the conclusion that adequate protection means the maintenance of the present tariff. (Laughter.) What kind of a tariff these gentlemen would enact if they were in power passeth all understanding. What the present tariff is we all know. We know that under it the country has prospered more than at any previous period in its history. And the manner in which the tariff question has been dealt with by the Government affords the best assurance that if at any time changes have to be made they will be made as the result of the most careful enquiry, and with all due regard to every interest which a Government are bound to consider. (Applause.)

There are many other matters of public interest as to which I might be tempted to speak. But I must not detain you longer, (cries of go on). There are others here from whom you will desire to hear, and I must not further detain you. Our gathering to-night is chiefly of a party character, although there are a few friends who may not have seen all these things

as we have seen them, but who are so well disposed as to come with us this evening. (applause.) On such an occasion our thoughts naturally turn to our past contests, to our defeats and our victories, to the points on which we have been obliged to differ from the gentlemen who sit at the left of the Speaker in the House of Commons. But let us not forget that if there are many things as to which we differ, there are also many things on which happily we two parties can agree. We may differ as to policies and methods but I am sure that on both sides of the House, whether members call themselves Liberals or Conservatives, they are united in a common patriotic desire to work for the upbuilding of this vast territory that has been committed to our care. (Applause.)

Once more, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, let me assure you of the deep gratitude which I feel for the great honor that has been done me to-night. To you, Mr. Murray, for this further mark of your kindness and loyal co-operation, to my colleagues and the other guests who have come so far to join in this demonstration, to the committee who labored hard to make the occa-

sion the splendid success which it has been, to the absent friends whose kind letters have been read, to one and all here I beg to return my warm, my sincere, my heartfelt thanks. (Great applause.)

THE HONORABLE L. G. POWER

Speaker of the Senate, in proposing the toast of the Dominion Cabinet, spoke as follows :

Some Liberals were disposed to expect too much and to be too critical and exacting in looking at the record of the Government. The members of the Cabinet were human beings and therefore imperfect. We should form a truer estimate of the Ministry if we compared their actual record with that which the opposition foretold for them.

In 1896, the opposition—holding that the capacity for governing was confined to the Conservative party — prophesied that the Government would not last for a session. It lasted through a Parliament, was sustained at a general election in 1900, and now seems at least as strong as it was six years ago.

The opposition predicted that Liberal rule would be anti-British and disloyal. As a matter of fact, while the Conservatives had said that, if British connection and the national policy proved inconsistent, it would be so much the worse for British connection, the Government have won the gratitude of English people by the generous preference they gave to British goods ; and whereas Sir John Macdonald's government, during the war in the Soudan, when the Australian colonies sent troops to help the mother country, declined to send a man or spend a dollar, the Liberal Cabinet forwarded contingents to South Africa which afforded valuable aid to England and did much to establish a military reputation for Canada.

The opposition foretold serious injury to all classes of the community and blue ruin to the manufacturers ; and the truth is that all classes, including the manufacturers, have enjoyed unprecedented prosperity.

We see then that, if the Cabinet are not as perfect as some critical Liberals think they might be, they are infinitely superior to what

the Conservatives expected them to be, and to the Conservative Government whom they displaced ; and they deserve the warm and hearty support of all good Liberals.

At the head of the Cabinet we have a leader who, while always courteous and gentle, is always dignified, and when occasion seems to require it firm. In Sir Wilfred Laurier we have a Premier who, when abroad, whether in England or on the Continent, so bore himself and so represented his native country as to cause a feeling of pride in the bosom of every true Canadian—whether Liberal or Conservative.

HONORABLE MR. BLAIR,

responding to the toast, said he was pleased to accept the courteous invitation of the Committee to be present to-night, and to join with the representatives of the Liberal party of Nova Scotia in paying a tribute of respect to his friend and colleague. The toast of the Dominion Cabinet had been received with such unbounded enthusiasm that he was con-

vinced the Liberal party of Nova Scotia were well content with the Government both individually and collectively. He was sure their deepest sympathies went out towards their beloved and respected leader, and that they would be delighted to know that he would be able to return to us, after a brief holiday for recuperation, fully restored to health and able to continue the discharge of his responsible duties.

He (Hon. Mr. Blair) believed that there was no man in Canadian public life who was more worthy than the Finance Minister of the esteem, confidence and good will of the Canadian people. He recollected the circumstance that when he, Hon. Mr. Fielding, was chosen by the Premier to take this important portfolio in the Government his selection was denounced in Parliament by the leading members of the Conservative party, and throughout the country by the Conservative press, as an unwise selection. The choice of one who had had no experience in the Dominion Parliament or in Dominion affairs would be sure to end in disaster to Canada, they alleged. Upwards of

six years' tenure of his office had demonstrated how false these predictions were, and he thought it was not too much to say that no one who had heretofore filled the office had done so with greater ability or had achieved a greater measure of success. He had to initiate and take the responsibility of working out measures which touched the business life of Canada in the closest possible way, and his tariff legislation and his preferential policy showed that, at critical junctures, he could combine progressive ideas with the most statesmanlike caution. The best proof that his measures had been wise and statesmanlike were apparent on every hand in the widespread prosperity of the country. Never before had Canada realized what prosperity was: In fact the Canadians in the last six years had re-discovered their country; they had become aroused from a state of stagnation, both as respects its increase in population, as respects its business expansion and as respects its general development.

He (Hon. Mr. Blair) did not claim for the Government the whole credit of these results.

He recognized that the vigorous energy and capacity of the Canadian people themselves had much to do with these results ; but he did claim confidently for the Government that it had been alive to the possibilities of the future ; it had foreseen what, with good administration, might be accomplished ; it had guided and directed the progressive movement in the right course, inspired confidence in the steadiness of its policy and kept the ship of state with her prow heading in the direction of safety and progress.

He (Hon. Mr. Blair) thought it was fair to point out that it was the duty of the Minister of Finance to keep a tight rein upon public expenditure, to make sure that none of his colleagues should exceed the bounds of prudence in the working out of their various departmental ideas, because it might be said that every Minister is apt to think that the questions which come up in his own Department and the appropriations he wishes to make are of much greater importance than those of any other.

While this has been the duty of the Minister of Finance, and the duty has been well discharged, he was always ready and willing to give due support in a financial point of view to any proposals recognized as sound policy which made for progress.

He (Hon. Mr. Blair) speaking of his own Department, had this much to say with regard to his colleague that, while he had not always succeeded in convincing the Finance Minister and his colleagues generally that his requirements were necessary, he had been supported generously and had been able, he thought he could say without egotism, to place the Intercolonial Railway and the Canal system upon a vastly improved footing. He could not go into details to-night, he had done so on other occasions, and these results were known to everybody, — especially to those who were living along the route of the Intercolonial and were interested in its progress.

Hon. Mr. Blair further said, we have as a people much to be proud of, much to be thankful for, and for a great deal of which we may

justly boast. We may justly boast of our timber resources, equalled by no other country in the world to-day ; our fisheries on both the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard are not surpassed by those of any other country ; our vast areas of fertile soil are richer and vaster than those of any other land of which we have knowledge ; our mineral resources have been scarcely touched as yet, and no man can estimate their extent or value ; we have great water powers, so numerous and so considerable that they are attracting the attention of people in other countries ; and now that electricity is playing so important a part in industrial development these water powers will attract capital and enterprise as they are not likely to be attracted elsewhere ; and lastly we may boast of a great race of people, the product of our invigorating climate, in which has been entrusted the future of this valuable country.

HON. WILLIAM PATERSON

said that he feared the pressure of public business might have prevented him from attending this gathering and he now realized how great would have been his loss had such been the case. When he looked around and saw the material of which Nova Scotia Liberals were made of, he never doubted their ability to carry a Province twice the size of Nova Scotia. To Nova Scotians assembled he would say that he considered Fielding as grand a public man as ever stood in the Parliament of Canada. Fielding gets the credit for all the money in the Treasury, but he would like to prove who did the collecting? He thought Nova Scotia Liberals might be more generous to their opponents. He heard they had an election down in Yarmouth. He read in a Tory paper that Fielding was down there fighting for his life. He afterwards found that the Liberal not only saved his deposit but had actually been elected. And here was Prefontaine. He

wondered why he had not made his majority 1902 so he could have remembered it by the year. He also read in a Tory paper that there were quarrels in the Liberal Cabinet. He had never heard of it. But it was a cruel thing for a Tory editor to remind their people of their own record. They had fought not only within closed doors, but on the broad floors of Parliament and disgraced the legislative halls in such ways as to bring the blush of shame to every honest Conservative and to their children after them. They went out as they deserved to do. But the Liberals stood shoulder to shoulder under the grandest leader that any party ever had.

As to tariff revision, great wisdom, discretion and knowledge must be exercised. After five years in the light of experience and changed conditions, changes may be necessary. But these changes early or late though they may come, can best be made by those who have given stability and progress, rather than by their political opponents. There was not a young man in Canada to-day whose heart did not beat faster because Canada stood

higher in the minds and on the lips of people far and near—than when the present administration came into power.

HON. MR. PREFONTAINE

said :—In rising at this late hour to respond to the toast of the Dominion Government I feel that, after the brilliant and patriotic speech of the guest of the evening, the Hon. Mr. Fielding, and also the very able and interesting ones of the other members of the Government who have spoken, I must apologize if I break this flow of eloquence. You do not, I am sure, expect a lengthy speech from the junior member of the Cabinet, although I regard it as a privilege to answer the call of the Liberals assembled here to do honour to my colleague as the leader of our party in the Province of Nova Scotia. I came more to listen and to learn than to speak. But, Sir, I came with the greatest pleasure, fresh from the battle field, to contribute my share and that of the Province of Quebec, to this grand demonstration,

and to pay my tribute of honor to the man I have so much admired since his brilliant entry into the House of Commons of Canada as Minister of Finance in the Laurier administration. I am not the only one in my Province who esteems and respects the guest of the evening ; I voice the opinion of every Liberal in Quebec, and, as you are aware, it is the almost unanimous voice of the citizens of that part of Canada. I thank you, therefore, from the bottom of my heart for having given me this opportunity of joining with you to rejoice over the success achieved and the popularity enjoyed by Mr. Fielding throughout the Dominion. Let me tell you that he deserves all the good wishes and all the noble sentiments you have so well expressed, Mr. Chairman, and he is entitled to all the warm and true enthusiasm which you — only you of Scottish descent know its secret—have shown to-night. I find myself almost at home amongst you. The Scotchmen of Montreal have always lived in harmony with us of French descent in the metropolis of Canada. The first Mayor elected by the people of Mon-

trear was Scotch, the late Honourable Peter McGill. Early in our history we learned the great principle, always put forward by our chieftain, that to build up a nation in this Canada of ours all strife and divisions should cease, not only between the different Provinces, but especially between Canadians of different races and creeds. You gentlemen of Nova Scotia have no difficulty in submitting to that principle and in putting it into practice.

This being my first visit to the Maritime Provinces as Minister of Marine and Fisheries, a portfolio, which, for the past 30 years, has been held continuously by a member of the Government from this part of the Dominion, I hesitate to enter upon a discussion of the questions which interest you so deeply. I wish first to study the ground, rather I should say the coast, seas and waters, before telling you what is going to be my programme and my line of action. I feel deeply the honour that has been conferred upon me by the Premier of Canada in offering me a seat in the council of the nation presided over by him. The portfolio of Marine and Fisheries has,

within the past few years, become one of the most important, on account of the extraordinary increase in the value of the fishing industry in the inland waters, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, on the Atlantic coast, and more particularly, on the Pacific coast. Our fisheries will, therefore, require a great deal of attention on the part of the Government, not to mention the important question of their administration, which interests financially the different Provinces, except Ontario. This matter is now under consideration, and will, I hope be settled at an early date by the Dominion and Provincial Governments.

But what makes the business men of Canada and elsewhere turn their eyes to my Department is the vast question of transportation from the head of the Great Lakes to the Straits of Belle Isle. The St. Lawrence is our national route. The safety of vessels navigating the waters of Canada must be secured at all costs, if we want our trade to continue to prosper as it has done during the past few years. There is, therefore, an immense field before me, and I shall be glad to receive the

assistance and support of all who are interested in the advancement of our country in the work of developing and improving our water ways. To make "Canada for the Canadians" a reality we must be in a position to carry our increasing crops from the West in Canadian bottoms, through Canadian channels and Canadian ports, summer and winter. I sincerely hope I shall not fall short of my duty in this respect.

As regards the trade policy of the Government, it has been most clearly defined, I am happy to say, by your guest, the Minister of Finance, upon whose shoulders the greatest part of the burden rests. My good friends of Maisonneuve, following the example of Argenteuil and Yarmouth, have signified their approval of the Liberal policy in no uncertain way, and the enthusiasm with which you have so kindly received my name this evening re-echoes back to my constituents your cordial and sincere approval of their judgment. Nor must I forget to add that the sound of victory has been heard also from that rich, gold producing country, the Yukon, where Mr. Ross

has been returned as a supporter of the Government by the handsome majority of 800.

And last, Mr. Chairman, but not least let us not forget, as we are gathered round this festive board, that great and noble statesman, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who is at the present moment recuperating his health and strength in the sunny south of the neighbouring Republic. Let our last thought to-night be for Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Long life to him! I shall carry in person the good wishes you are sending him; it is another honour I owe you, and one for which I shall ever be grateful.

MR. GEORGE MITCHELL, M. P. P.,

in proposing the toast to the Dominion Parliament said:

I feel it an honor to have had confided to my care the important toast which I am about to propose, and which I am sure in a gathering such as I see before me, will be received with all the honor and enthusiasm to which it is entitled.

A body whose duty it is to make our

national laws, to frame our fiscal policy, to arrange for the defence of our country, to provide those transportation facilities which are indispensable to its growth and progress, and to further its commercial, agricultural, and industrial development, in a word to do everything possible for the comfort and welfare of the people generally, is certainly a most important factor in our national life, and such is our Dominion Parliament.

Its scope is extensive, embracing as it does His Majesty the King as its head, represented by His Excellency the Governor General; that venerable and august body the Senate; and the popular body the House of Commons; these bodies comprising, not only those of the same political faith as ourselves, but that important and necessary portion designated as "His Majesty's loyal opposition," whose health I am sure we will have pleasure in drinking, coupled with the hope that they may long continue to occupy that position which is so much more becoming to them, and beneficial to the country than that which they formerly filled.

It is a great satisfaction to feel that the present Parliament contains so many able and conscientious men, who not only appreciate the honor of their position but its responsibility. In the hands of our beloved chief, that high minded patriot, that eloquent and able statesman, the Right Honorable Sir Wilfred Laurier, and with so many able counsellors, and particularly with so able a Finance Minister as our friend the honored and respected guest of the evening, whose name in Nova Scotia and in the Dominion suggests everything that is upright and honorable in political and private life, and whose talents command the admiration of his fellow Nova Scotians, who are fair-minded enough to recognize genuine worthy regardless of party, we feel that the interests of the country are safely guarded, and that we can fittingly adapt the modified words of the poet and say of them,

“ And *statesmen* at her council met,
Who knew the season when to take
Occasion by the hand, and make
The bounds of progress wider yet.”

I had intended to refer to the 35 years of our national life, and to a few of the very able men of both parties whose names will ever be associated with the growth and prosperity of our country. Giants they were, and worthy of the gratitude of the people of their own day as well as of those of this present day, and of the millions who will in the future be the happy millions in this great heritage of ours, but at this early hour of the morning it would be presumptuous in me to take up any more of your time, as there are many other speakers whom you are desirous of hearing.

I therefore ask you to join with me in drinking the toast to the Dominion Parliament.

HON. WILLIAM ROSS, M. P.,

said that he had been asked to reply to the toast of the " Dominion Parliament " simply for the reason that he was the oldest parliamentarian, if not the oldest person present. After representing Victoria in the parliament of Nova Sco-

tia for eight years previous to Confederation, then eight years in the Dominion parliament—having been returned by acclamation at three successive Dominion elections, namely, 1867, 1872 and 1874 ; this was a record which no other representative who entered our parliament had ever achieved. Of the men whom he met in parliament in 1867, only two besides himself were there now, namely, Honorable John Costigan and the Right Honorable Sir Richard Cartwright. Some were promoted to the Senate but most of them were called home from the toils and anxieties connected with public life.

He need scarcely mention to this intelligent assembly of Liberals from all parts of the province—his own county being well represented—that the Dominion parliament consisted of two parties, those who are consistent supporters of the present government and who believe that the public affairs of the Dominion were never better managed and conducted than under the able men who at present guide the ship of state, and the opposition. That opposition ran away with

the idea that everything would be much better governed if they only had control of the Dominion government. Well, we would allow them to hug this vain delusion, for a long time to come. There was a Gælic saying, which translated into English, meant that the man who is idle fancies he is the best hand to steer the ship. We had in this great Dominion in this day of prosperity, an intelligent and discerning public, who could wisely judge how all subjects requiring calm caution and ability were managed by the present government, and that it would be an unwise experiment to put new, untried and inexperienced men in their places, and this would not be done while the men in power continued to do what was just, and right and honorable.

He was a Presbyterian himself and believed truly that there was a wise and overruling Providence guiding the lives of individuals, of families, of communities, provinces, and much more the destiny of the great Dominion of Canada. Therefore, as long as the present government would do

what was honest, and right there would be the over ruling hand of Providence to sustain and support them. The moment they began to act crooked and doubtful, then the guiding hand that led them to power would be withdrawn and their history would end in shipwreck and disaster as was the fate of the government which preceeded them, who were carried away with the presumption that it was their right divine to rule the country for all time to come. But an over ruling Providence thought otherwise.

He was in hopes that we would hear something about the fast line which must of necessity become a live issue until it was accomplished. He would only say to his friend, the Minister of Finance, not to listen to the bug bear of increasing the debt of the Dominion. He (Hon. Mr. Ross) had been accustomed to that cry yearly in the parliament of Nova Scotia as well as in the Dominion, but as long as the people had value for their large expenditure, they would defend and sustain him. Nothing need be said about the port of call. The Company

who would have the contract would wisely take the port most suitable and least dangerous for their business.

He was pleased to have with us on this occasion the Hon. Raymond Prefontaine, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, representing the French liberal supporters of the government.

He (Hon. Mr. Ross) had contrasted the men who were at present the Liberal representatives of Quebec, of whom he knew more than those in the opposition and he found them much superior to the class of representatives that met him at Ottawa in 1867, 1868 and 1869, etc. At that time the Honorable leader of the Opposition, Sir A. A. Dorion, who died Chief Justice of the Province of Quebec, was his life long friend. In his day it was considered almost a crime to be a pronounced Liberal, as that would be considered an enemy of the Church as well as of the State. All these things have changed and the men in parliament now were broad minded and honorable, and he thought equal to the supporters of the government

from his own province, which, of course, we consider the standard of perfection.

He considered it an honour and a privilege to be present on an occasion of this kind, when representatives of the Liberal party from all over the province had met to do honour to our esteemed friend the Honorable W. S. Fielding. (Hon. Mr. Ross) had the pleasure of his confidence and esteem since ever he entered public life in his native province, and he was sure that the friendship which existed then between them would continue as long as Providence would enable him to be a humble supporter of the present government.

MR. D. C. FRASER, M. P.,

said :—MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I desire first of all to congratulate the committee and all who contributed to the success of this magnificent gathering. Our guests from the other Provinces have much to learn from us in the manner in which we banquet our public men. Concerning our own Mr. Field-

ing, we lent him to the Dominion for the Dominion's good. Were I Prime Minister of Canada I know no man whom I would entrust with a portfolio more readily than the Minister of Finance. He is from the people and has never ceased being in touch with them. He never shirked his responsibility when work was to be done for his party. He was as willing to go and address ten electors as ten thousand. Like the immortal "Bobs" he "does not advertise." While accessible to every man in Canada, he never forgets the claims of his own Province. We honour ourselves in honouring him. May his future be as brilliant as his past has been successful.

The past two weeks has shown that the "grits are on the run"—after the conservatives. Here again, Nova Scotia, as always, leads. Argenteuil held its own. Maisonneuve increased its majority one hundred, but Yarmouth almost quadrupled its majority. We determined that our Province would declare in no uncertain way what we thought of the selfish attempt to go back to the never to be forgotten days of protective leanness. When

men who cannot fill their own orders, begin to show a desire for further assistance at the expense of the many, it is high time we spoke out in no uncertain way. Never did any country show such advances in every department of trade and commerce as Canada has shewn during the past six years. The agitation was ill-timed as well as intensely stupid. I feel sure that under present circumstances our opponents have not a fighting chance in any county in Nova Scotia. It would be silly to retrograde in the hope of doing better, but to plunge into the muddy pools where we struggled to keep alive for eighteen years would be madness. The ten per cent. change for the better made by the present Government has taught the country, that any further change in our tariff, ought to be in the same direction. We welcome to-night our Minister of Militia—our Minister of Customs, our Minister of Railways and the new Minister of Marine, all of whom have proved themselves capable and trustworthy. Mr. Prefontaine leaves in the morning to visit our grand Chief, where he is taking a needed rest after

adding to our fame in the mother lands. May I on your behalf ask him to carry with him a message conveying the unbounded attachment and unshaken loyalty of the Liberal Party of this Province. Aye, more—will we not also encourage him by earnestly praying that the Great Healer, who can bring health out of sickness, may restore him to his country in the full enjoyment of bodily health and mental vigour. May the warm southern breezes fan his cheek, bringing back the bloom of his earlier days. May his step become elastic as he wanders amid the southern pines, so that when he again comes to his loved country, he will be able for many years to preside with dignity and wisdom in the Councils of the nation, to fulfil his mission of making Canada broad in our sympathies—freer in our laws, stronger in our hopes, more determined in our purposes, and above all, more tolerant in our views of all citizens whatever may be their religious convictions. Your unsparing applause convinces me that your hearts respond to my hopes and prayers, and I feel sure when the Minister of Marine and

Fisheries conveys these greetings to him we follow and love, we will accept them with greater pleasure than any gift we can send him.

DOCTOR RUSSELL, M. P.,

said he had understood that all speakers under the rank of cabinet ministers were to be restricted to the maximum of ten minutes and he would endeavor to keep within the limit, although recent and somewhat sensational events seemed to indicate that it was rather the cabinet members than the private members of Parliament who needed to cultivate the virtue of reticence. He was reminded in this connection of an incident related by Greville of a poor fellow who was caught in the Tuileries gardens wandering about with a bandage over his mouth, and on being questioned as to his reasons for such a curious procedure, explained that he was a very imprudent man and seldom opened his mouth without getting into trouble, and he therefore thought it best to put himself under

that restraint. Mr. Greville added that this was the wisest man he had ever heard of, and certainly there was much to be said in favor of his procedure, and there had been cabinet ministers who might wisely have profited by the example. He reminded his hearers that in view of the events referred to the Liberal party was in a state of dissolution. In presence of such an assemblage as this, amid such surroundings as these, with the echoes of victory ringing in their ears from the Yukon where the Government was said to be discredited beyond redemption, from Maisonneuve where the Minister of Marine and Fisheries was alleged to be a doomed man, from Argenteuil where at last the millionaire debutante of the Tory party was to attain the object of his ambition, and from Yarmouth where the Tory reaction had set in to the tune of 868 against a normal majority of two or three hundred, it was very easy to forget that the Government was tottering to its fall. In fact he marvelled at the indifference to its coming fate with which the Liberal party as represented here this evening was content to eat, drink and be

merry with the hand-writing on the wall so clearly traced against it in the returns from Dawson and Maisonneuve, from Yarmouth and Argenteuil. Be it remembered then of all and singular that the Liberal party was tottering. In fact when he came to think of it, only a year or two ago he had been tottering himself, and he was well content to go on tottering in the same way, as he hoped the Liberal party would continue to totter for many years to come.

The temptation to make a speech was hard to resist. The record of the Liberal party was an inviting one, and the prospects opening up before it were such as to convince the most skeptical that the best part of it was yet to be written, but he had to remember that the hours were rapidly flying and that the time would fail him to deal with any of the topics that presented themselves. He would have to content himself therefore with the expression of his great delight at the success of this demonstration, which was not merely a tribute to the Finance Minister of the Dominion but a proof of the strength and unity of the

Liberal party in this province. He was proud to number himself among the supporters of the Hon. Mr. Fielding. They had begun life together and had been personal friends from the hour of their first association. The career of the distinguished guest of the evening had been one of unbroken success and conspicuous usefulness to his country.

MR. WILLIAM ROCHE, M. P.,

proposed the toast :—" The Provincial Government."

He said, — Heretofore, the sentiments professed had been conveyed in words of eulogy. He hoped they were all quite true. The toast he was about to propose at this interesting function would admit of some variation from that treatment.

Whatever skepticism might exist with respect to the merits of the subjects of former toasts, no doubt could prevail regarding the value we set upon the character and patriotic services of the officials who administer the affairs of the Local Government.

By the favor of the people, he (Mr. Roche) had been elected to serve three terms in the Local Parliament. For a period of six months and thirteen days, more or less, he was a member of the Local Government. Therefore he was in a position to judge of their characters and services, from personal observation.

First, the Provincial Secretary had endeared himself to all—by his genial and obliging demeanor — and his unassuming manners. His application to the transaction of business, and executive ability, were both great and recognized. He made an ideal head of the Executive.

As to the Attorney General, no words could adequately express the obligations of the Liberal party to him. In many capacities, in many departments of work, no one had contributed more to its success, during many years, than his friend, Hon. J. W. Longley.

By his writings in the press ; by his eloquent exposition of Liberal principles on the platform, he had wrought wisely and well for that party ; and for the country at large.

Time would not permit him (Mr. Roche) to dilate on the fitness, or the services of the other members of the Cabinet.

However, the people had sent only two to watch them. But they were men of weight. Eloquent in debate—but when it came to voting—the old story, “Athanasius against the World.”

Perhaps, however, the Government might be warned. That doom, predicted for the last three or four campaigns in the Conservative press, might suddenly fall upon them. The sword of Damocles still hung glittering in the Council Chambers. The majority might perish—smitten by a sudden blast of public opinion—as the simoom destroyed the legions of Sennacherib.

But if that event should take place, he had this advice—if the majority should vanish, act as they did in New Brunswick. There, when the Government got into a tight place, they went out and called in three or four of the opposition ; and then the ship of state sailed in

smooth and Summer seas into its desired haven.

He suggested to the leader of the Government to imitate their example, and secure three or four of the opposition.

He now gave the toast, "The Provincial Legislatures"—and called upon the Hon. Mr. Tweedie, of New Brunswick; Hon. J. W. Longley; and his talented and eloquent friend, Mr. Edward MacDonald, of Pictou to respond.

HON. MR. TWEEDIE,

Premier of New Brunswick, in reply said he was glad to be in attendance to do honor to a man who was respected, not only in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick but throughout the whole Dominion of Canada. New Brunswick was entitled to some share of his success as the Minister of Finance had obtained his better half in that Province.

He spoke at some length upon the demands of the Provincial Parliaments upon

the Dominion. He looked for a proper recognition of these claims. While formerly a Conservative he had found very good reason for supporting Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who in the Conference of London towered above the leaders of all the other Colonies. The Liberal Party can hold the reins of power as long as they choose. The only thing that can defeat them is the men of the Liberal party itself.

HON. J. W. LONGLEY

said :—*Mr. Chairman*,—I shall find it necessary, I think, to say very little in respect to the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia, in response to the toast which has been so kindly proposed and so cordially received. That government, it may fairly be stated, is tolerably healthy. About a year ago we had a general election and by some unfortunate concatenation of events two members were elected in opposition when, strictly speaking, and under fair conditions, every single seat should have been carried by the government.

The distinguished guest of the evening is necessarily associated with this toast because the earlier part of his political career was spent in connection with the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia. In those days we were intimately associated with him on even terms, but since he has left us his rise has been so rapid and he has acquired a position so important in the councils of the nation, that we can only refer to him now in the same terms as the American poet,—

“I was with Grant, the stranger said.”—
(Laughter and applause).

We are naturally pleased to see such a large representation of Cabinet Ministers at this banquet to do honor to their distinguished colleague. This is, to all intents and purposes, a party gathering, and I am not quite clear that I am fitted to participate in it to the same enthusiastic extent as most of those around me. I have long been known in this province as having abandoned partizanship and to have assumed the garb of strict and inexorable independence, (laughter) although it is still humiliating to me to have this

declaration invariably received with tokens of doubt. Nevertheless, I am quite sure that our friends of the Dominion Government will not accept with less satisfaction the assurances of confidence in their policy and appreciation of the magnificent success which has attended their efforts, coming from an impartial critic.

One observation only I wish to make, and that is that the special characteristic of the policy of the present Dominion Government has been its Canadianism ; its interest in Canadian enterprises, its zeal in developing Canadian industries. I hope, sir, that no mere abstract proposition will divert the government from a steady adherence to this policy. There are no inflexible rules in the policy of government—it is a constant and perpetual adjusting of action to suit the immediate necessities of the case. It happens now that Canada is in a growing and prosperous condition, that great enterprises are in the air, that large industrial life is being developed within our borders. Let care be taken that nothing is done to interfere with this movement and let all those engaged in building up

great enterprises in Canada feel that their interests are absolutely safe and secure in the hands of the present Canadian government.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your recognition of the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia on this occasion, and I assure you that that government and all its friends in Nova Scotia cordially unite in doing honor to the able and respected Nova Scotian who occupies the position of guest of honor on this great occasion.

MR. E. M. MACDONALD, M. P. P.,

said :—I desire to congratulate the Committee upon the fact that they had tendered the banquet to their chief and upon the great success that had attended it. The Liberals of Pictou had shown their appreciation of the guest of the evening in the dinner they had given in his honor three years ago, and speaking for them in that hitherto rock-ribbed Tory County he desired to assure this gathering that at the first opportunity they proposed to send representatives to the

Dominion Parliament who would be supporters of their gifted leader.

He came from the eastern and industrial portion of Nova Scotia and speaking for that portion, the home of our great coal and iron industries, and the other consequent wage and wealth producing enterprises that had been developed there, he desired to point out the fact that from that portion of the Province must come the motive power for most of the industrial advancement that will take place in eastern Canada.

We had listened to eloquent addresses from Cabinet Ministers and party leaders. He spoke for the "rank and file" and for the men of the fighting line who were proud of their leaders and glad to follow where they led, of their great chieftain, for whose complete and early recovery they all devotedly hoped. He did not know a phrase more apt to use in regard to him than the motto which Nova Scotia Liberals had used in 1900 at the great banquet then given in Halifax.

"Wherever the bright sun of heaven doth shine

"His Honor and the greatness of his name shall be."

In conclusion he felt that he could safely say that in Provincial affairs "the mantle of an Elijah had descended upon an Elisha," and in the person of the chairman of the evening, Hon. Mr. Murray, the success of his predecessor had been, and was being continued. There was no hesitancy about following his leadership, and the Liberal party were all united under him.

It had been said by the Premier of New Brunswick that the Liberal party would remain in power as long as it desired. He desired to add that so long as the Liberal party was led by men of the stamp of its present leaders, and its policy arranged on broad and patriotic lines to meet the fast changing conditions of this great country, so long would that party retain the support and confidence of its followers, and so long would their supporters be found fighting with them to forward the fortunes of the Liberal party, and to advance the interests of the whole Dominion.

MR. GEORGE E. FAULKNER,

in proposing the toast Canadian Soldiers, said : Our attention has been directed up to this time this evening to considerations affecting the welfare of the people of Canada in times of peace. It is regrettable, perhaps, that we should ever have to give thought or attention to other considerations. However, we have to accept situations and conditions as we find them in this world ; and no man lives unto himself alone, so no country can maintain itself wholly self-contained and free from conditions imposed by contact and intercourse with other nations or communities. And so it comes about that everywhere it is found necessary not only to study the things that make for peace—as we are exhorted to do—but also to study the things that make for security, and which enable a country to assert and defend its rights, even if need be to the extremity of war. Bad as war is and must always be, I think we would all agree that possibly, in certain contingencies, there might be something worse. When

it comes to the alternative of war or the sacrifice of national honour and self-respect, national interests, or the interests of humanity, we would regard war as justifiable. In Canada we have some historic battle-fields, the arenas of ancient conflicts, of European origin of the most part, but since the organization of the Dominion it has been our good fortune not to be embroiled, directly, in any serious wars. It is true we had a little domestic trouble in the North West a few years ago, which we managed to settle ourselves, and more recently we participated, voluntarily, to assist the Empire in the war in South Africa. Meagre as our military history is I think we can contemplate the record with pride and satisfaction. We cannot tell what the future may have in store for us in the way of difficulties and dangers, but whatever the vicissitudes of fortune may be we have an abiding faith that if ever the services of our soldiers are required they will maintain their record and uphold the best traditions of British Arms. I ask you now to drink to the health "Canadian Soldiers."

SIR FREDERICK BORDEN

said : “ It was now about four o'clock in the morning and he felt that it would not be fair to the very considerable number of guests who had remained, to trespass further upon their patience and good nature. He would therefore confine himself to the fewest possible words which would express his appreciation of the occasion and in some slight degree acknowledge the importance of the toast to which he had the honour to respond.

He had always been proud to call himself a Nova Scotian, because of the splendid men whom his Province had produced, such as Haliburton, Uniacke, Howe, Johnstone, Tupper and our present worthy Governor the Honorable A. G. Jones. He had felt proud also because it was in Nova Scotia that the first battle for responsible government was fought and won, under Joseph Howe. He could not say that his friend and colleague, the guest of the evening, was the “ noblest Roman of them all,” but he would say that

upon the whole he considered him to be the peer of any of them.

It was awkward to speak ones mind freely in the presence of ones friends, and the nearer and dearer the friend the greater the difficulty. We hesitated to praise members of our own family in public ; and he felt towards Mr. Fielding as if they were members of the same family. He had known him since the first hour he (Sir Frederick) entered public life and he appreciated the able support which he (Sir F.) as one of the members of the Liberal party received from him while he was editor of the *Morning Chronicle*. He recognised in the work which he (Hon. Mr. Fielding) did in the seventies and eighties the successful laying of the foundation upon which the superstructure of Liberalism in this Province, and indeed to some extent throughout the Dominion of Canada, had been built. To him more than to anyone else in his (Sir Frederick's) judgment was due the strong position which we occupied here and, as he had said, to a considerable extent in the " Dominion at large."

We heard to-night of the great develop-

ment of Canada in every branch of her varied industries. Our friend Mr. Patterson told us of the vast amount of money which he was collecting. Our friend Mr. Blair indicated his ability and willingness to invest a portion of that money in railway development, and when we contemplated the splendid condition of the Intercolonial Railway to-day, as compared with what it was a few years ago he was sure we must feel that any commission we might give to Mr. Blair of this kind would be faithfully attended to.

He wished to be permitted to express his belief that in the idea contained in the toast to which he was now responding, was to be found a cause of greater fame to Canada than in any of the splendid achievements which had been so eloquently described to-night.

The discussions to-night had rested entirely upon the material side of our development and it was well that this should be so. At the same time he felt that we should not part without reminding ourselves that there was something else of importance to the nation besides the building of factories and the

accumulation of wealth. There was something which might make a poor nation, and had in fact done so in the past, more famous and greater than its wealthiest contemporaries. He believed his audience would agree with him when he said that the conduct of our soldiers in South Africa had done more than anything that had happened within the last ten years or more to make the name of Canada favourably known throughout the British Empire and indeed the world at large.

We have had Canadian soldiers in the past. They fought in 1812, in 1837 and in '66 '70 and '85, but during all these times they fought for the protection of Canadian soil. It was an entirely new departure to send troops from Canada thousands of miles away from home to assist the Mother Country in upholding British supremacy in another continent.

Canadian soldiers had made a record for themselves in South Africa at Pardaaberg, Hart's River and elsewhere. The names of Carruthers and of Evans who dying broke his rifle, to prevent the enemy from turning it

against his friends ; and many others that he could mention and whose names would never be forgotten, had thrown a lustre upon Canadian history which would never be dimmed and when the history of the war in South Africa was written Canada's part in that war would stand out conspicuous for intelligence, bravery and heroism. It was pleasant for us to reflect that in all the engagements in which Canadians had taken part they had never turned their backs to the foe and had never surrendered.

He thanked those present on behalf of Canadian soldiers for the kind manner in which they had drunk their health."

LT.-COL. A. T. THOMPSON, M. P.,

said :—*Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,*—I am pleased that the kind invitation which I received to be present with you to-night came at an inclement season of the year, for my acceptance of it proves beyond peradventure that in coming I was not actuated by a desire

to view your beautiful scenery, nor by a craving to enjoy a private hospitality unexcelled in Canada, the hospitality of my good friend and brother-in-arms-on-a-peace-footing Surgeon-Major Curry, for all of which summer would be the more suitable time, but simply by a fixed purpose to do honor to a man whom we in Ontario consider as amongst the ablest and purest of the statesmen of Canada, the guest of the evening, the Hon. W. S. Fielding.

You are right to show your appreciation of the Minister of Finance, and as a man from central Canada I congratulate you upon the fact that he is a Nova Scotian born and bred. To-day, Sir, however, Canada is no longer a number of jealous Provinces experimentally strung together by an Imperial Act of Parliament, but a united country, from Atlantic to Pacific throbbing with a truly national spirit, and so we Ontarians claim Mr. Fielding as a Canadian, while yours, ours also.

I know that you will be pleased to hear that the name of your former Premier is fast becoming a household word with us in our

big and populous Province, and further that when coming through Montreal I talked with a number of prominent Liberals, all of whom breathed forth eulogiums upon his modest head. That little word 'modest,' Sir, recalls a marked characteristic of Mr. Fielding, and greatly as I enjoy his presence I could almost wish him absent for a few minutes that I might to my heart's content discant upon his many virtues, which consideration for his feelings forces me upon the present occasion to forego.

And now, to the toast.

Canadian Soldiers. What proud memories these words recall! What glory have her soldier sons brought Canada! In 1763 our great country passed from France to Britain, and in 1776 'Canadian Soldiers' in the persons of our French fellow-subjects, hurled back the invading Americans and slew their general beneath the frowning citadel of old Quebec, for the mastery of which, but thirteen short years before, these same brave Frenchmen had so stoutly fought their then British foes, their now British

brethren. A generation passes. Once more Canadian soil feels the tread of a foreign foe, and once more, only for a season. The war of 1812 bursts forth, and a third of a million of Canadians, scattered from western Ontario to Halifax, await the onset of eight million Americans. The ratio was more than 16 to 1, but then as later the more precious metal won, and men fighting in the sacred cause of home and country were able to repel superior numbers of brave fellows actuated by the less inspiring cause of conquest and expansion. A second time the French, this time at Chateauguay, saved Canada for Britain, while their English fellow-soldiers in Upper Canada actually carried the war into the enemy's country, and at its conclusion were in possession of a considerable foreign territory. Homer, Sir, sang of the prowess of the ancient Greeks, and their fame lives to this day, but no great poet, no great writer, has yet arisen to perpetuate the memory of this fight of the few against the many, one of the noblest struggles that history ancient or modern records.

For nearly a century thereafter Canada enjoyed peace, peace only interrupted by the short and not very sanguinary struggle of the '37, the Fenian Raid, and the half-breed revolt in the North West,—and meantime “Canadian Soldiers” were forgotten. The men of our militia were subjected to indifference or insult running the gauntlet from the good-natured shrug to the open sneer. Did a government become economical, the militia estimates were the first to suffer, and the people looked on with indifference at the injustice done to what many were pleased to call “feather-bed soldiers.” The members of the force, conscious of all this, looked on with feelings divided between indignation and amazement. They knew the history of the past, they knew they came of fighting stock from fighting Sires, and they did not think that the conditions of life in this new country, in a bracing and somewhat vigorous climate, tended towards effeminacy.

The South African war broke out, and Paardaberg and Hart's River vindicated our brave boys, and placed them once more in

their proper place in the public esteem. Of their performances there I shall say nothing, the subject is too vast, the hour too late, but I will close in the words of a great Poet and Patriot, Robert Burns, who sang ;—

“ The brave poor sodger ne'er despise.
Nor treat him as a stranger ;
Remember, he's his country's stay
In day and hour of danger.”



TOAST LIST.

1. THE KING.
2. THE GUEST OF THE EVENING.
3. THE DOMINION CABINET.
4. DOMINION PARLIAMENT.
5. PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES.
6. CANADIAN SOLDIERS.

The following is a list of those present :

Hon. W. S. Fielding	Hon Angus McGillivray
Hon Sir Frederick Borden, K. C. M. G.	Hon Sir Robert Boak, K. C. M. G., Hon M. H. Goudge, Windsor
Hon William Patterson	Hon G. J. Troop, M. L. C.
Hon A. G. Blair	Hon William Chisholm, M. L. C.
Hon Raymond Prefontaine	Hon John McNeil, M. L. C., Mabou, C. B.
Hon William Ross, P. C., M. P.	C. F. Cooper, M. P. P., Queens
Hon George H. Murray	Hon C. N. Cummings, M. L. C., Londonderry
Hon L. J. Tweedie, Premier of New Brunswick	Hon J. N. Armstrong, M. L. C., North Sydney, C. B.
Hon L. G. Power	Geo. Mitchell, M. P. P.
Hon Charles Church	M. E. Keefe, M. P. P.
D. C. Fraser, M. P.	A. K. McLean, M. P. P., Lunenburg
Lt-Col A. T. Thompson, M. P., Haldimand, Ontario	J. D. Sperry, M. P. P., Lunen- burg
Colin McIsaac, M. P.	E. M. Farrell, M. P. P., Liver- pool
Dr B. Russell, M. P.	J. H. Sinclair, M. P. P., New Glasgow
H. J. Logan, M. P.	B. F. Pearson, M. P. P.
F. B. Wade, M. P.	F. A. Laurence, M. P. P., Truro
William Roche, M. P.	William Whitman, M. P. P., Guysboro
Dr Kendall, M. P.	George Patterson, M. P. P., New Glasgow
Alexander Johnston, M. P.	E. M. McDonald, M. P. P., Pictou
Bowman B. Law, M. P.	
Hon J. W. Longley	
Hon Arthur Drysdale	
Hon Thomas Johnston	
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Hon A. H. Comeau	

Joseph Bancroft, M. P. P., Annapolis	Matthew N. Doyle A. E. McManus
Christopher Chisholm, M.P.P., Antigonish	Edward Keefe J. H. Parker, Bridgetown
H. H. Wickwire, M. P. P., Kentville	Thomas Murphy Ald D. H. Campbell
Brenton Dodge, M.P.P., Kent- ville	George E. Faulkner George McLean, Liverpool
D. D. McKenzie, M. P. P., North Sydney, C. B.	Thomas Lawson, Chester J. E. DeWolf
N. J. Gillies, M. P. P., Glace Bay, C. B.	Dr T. J. F. Murphy W. H. Whiston
James McDonald, M. P. P., West Bay, C. B.	George Anderson E. M. Bill, Shelburne
Duncan Finlayson, M. P. P., Arichat, C. B.	J. M. Owen, Annapolis Dr Underhill, New York
Parker McHeffey, M. P. P., Shubenacadie	William Burrill, Yarmouth Dr Black, Windsor
M. Doucett, M. P. P., Grand Etang, C B	Major Daley, Digby Dr I. Mader
A. D. Ross, Amherst	Andrew Robertson, Shelburne
Frederick Mathers	Chas. S. Pelton, Yarmouth
Dr. Martin Murphy	Lt-Col Gordeau, Ottawa
D. A. Hearn, Sydney, C. B.	James McIvey, North Sydney
T. F. Courtney	M. W. Allan, Yarmouth
W. F. Pickering	Hartwell Putnam, Liverpool
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